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# BOOK REVIEWS.

EUGENE UNTERMYER, *Editor-in-Charge.*

PRINCIPLES OF CORPORATION LAW. By JOSEPH C. FRANCE. Second Edition. Baltimore: M. CURLANDER. 1914. pp. xxii, 463.

This is a useful elementary treatise on the Law of Corporations and fulfills very satisfactorily the purpose of the author, which is "to give to the student of Corporation Law a knowledge and understanding of its characteristic principles and problems." The arrangement and classification of the subjects is excellent, and covers pretty well the whole field, so far as is necessary for the purposes of the student. The author does not undertake, and within the scope of his work he could not be expected, to sound the depths or to throw much new light on the fundamental problems, including the nature of a corporation, the *de facto* doctrine, the nature of an *ultra vires* act, the nature and transferability of shares, and the relations of directors and stockholders; but this does not detract from the merits of the book as a handy little volume to give the student a general view of the subject, which can only be thoroughly learned by painstaking and critical study of the decisions. The author has shown discrimination in the selection of authorities, and these will put the student on the right track for a thoughtful and thorough examination of the subject. We note that the relative powers of directors and stockholders and the question of the control of one over the other receive scant treatment. The same thing may be said as to the question of the power of a corporation to alienate all its property.

In addition to a statement of the principles of the common law of corporations, the book contains the more important provisions of the Maryland Statutory Law. This makes the book of special value for the Maryland student, but it does not impair its value for the general student.

*George F. Canfield.*

THE LAW OF MECHANICS' LIENS AND GENERAL CONTRACTING OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. By THOMAS H. RAY. Albany: MATTHEW BENDER & Co. 1914. pp. xlix, 657.

He who would add to the formidable accumulation of law text books assumes a grave responsibility toward his professional brethren. His justification must be that he has added something to the scientific and historical knowledge of the subject on which he writes, or that he has provided a useful tool to aid the practitioner in the performance of his daily task. It is on the latter ground that the author of this book is entitled to our friendly consideration. In it he unites a discussion of the important legal principles relating to building and construction contracts, referring particularly to the letting and performance of public construction contracts, with a discussion of the statute relating to Mechanics' Liens both against private property and upon public moneys due to contractors for public improvements, the whole being liberally supported by reference to New York authorities.

The value of such a book will, of course, depend not only upon the thoroughness with which the existing law on the subject is treated, but